

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented) An electrode comprising an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase, wherein the lithium/transition metal pnictide phase is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic table of the elements;
- Pn represents a pnictogene element selected in the group consisting of P, As, and Sb;
- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and
- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

4. (Previously Presented) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein, in formula (I), y represents a number between 0.4 and 2.1.

5. (Previously Presented) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein, in formula (I), y represents a number between 0.7 and 1.3.

Claims 6-15 (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) An electrochemical cell comprising a negative electrode, an electrolyte and a positive electrode, the negative electrode including a material containing an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase which is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic chart of the elements;
- Pn represents a pnictogene element, that is P or As;
- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and
- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

Claim 17 (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) An electrochemical cell according to claim 16, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

19. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium-ion battery which comprises a plurality of cells, electrically connected, each cell comprising a negative electrode, an electrolyte and a positive electrode, the negative electrode corresponding to a material containing an intermetallic lithium/transition metal pnictide phase is depicted by formula (I):



wherein:

- M represents a metal of one of the columns IVa and Va of the periodic chart of the elements;

- Pn represents a pnictogene element, that is P or As;

- x represents a number between 2.0 and 11.0; and

- y represents a number between 0.2 and 2.2.

Claim 20 (Canceled).

21. (Previously Presented) A rechargeable lithium battery according to claim 19, wherein, in formula (I), M represents a metal of the group consisting of Ti, V, Nb and Ta.

22. (Previously Presented) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein the pnictogene element is P.

23. (Previously Presented) An electrode according to claim 1, wherein the pnictogene element is As.